(d) if so, the details of the action taken/being taken by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) M/s Seagram Manufacturing Ltd., New Delhi which is a wholly owned subsidiary of M/s Seagram Company Ltd., Canada has been issued six import licences worth Rs. 17 Crores from the year 1994 to 1999 for import of Concentrates of Alcoholic Beverages as per the conditions stipulated in the Foregin Collaboration approval issued to them.

(c) As per the conditions of the Foreign Collaboration approval, M/s Seagram Manufacturing Ltd., New Delhi is required to export sufficient quantities of Liquor products to maintain foreign exchange neutrality over a period of five years. However a short fall of Rs. 5.45 Crores in achieving foreign exchange neutrality has been observed. The firm has also not set up facility for production of fruit juices and fruit products.

(d) The foreign exchange neutrality was to be achieved over a period of five years and not annually. The firm's application for fresh import of concentrate worth Rs. 3,82,69,000 made in November. 1999 is, therefore, being examined in the context of its performance in relation to the obligation undertaken by the firm.

Reduction in Subsidies on Exports

2474. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a pressure from WTO to reduce different kinds of subsidies on exports; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No. Sir. There is no pressure from the WTO to reduce different kinds of subsidies on exports. The WTO only provides a legal framework to members, under which they are obliged to operate their subsidy regimes. While export subsidies on non-agricultural products are covered by the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, the agricultural subsidies are covered by the Agreement on Agriculture.